

maintain the herd at about 100 horses. Bolstering this are Dr. Dan Rubenstein of Princeton University and Dr. Gus Cothran of the University of Kentucky, Department of Veterinary Science, who believe the horse population should stay at about 100 horses.

Congressman Jones introduced legislation, H.R. 875, specifying that the herd be maintained at not less than 100 horses, prohibits removal of any horses unless their numbers exceed 110 and allows citizen input in the management of the horses through the non-profit Foundation for Shackleford Horses Inc.

Maureen Finnerty, NPS associate director for Park Operations and Education, told the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands April 10 that the NPS intends "to maintain a representative herd of free-roaming horses on Shackleford Banks," but if Congressman Jones' legislation passes Congress, NPS will recommend that the president veto the bill.

The NPS management plan turns out to be a sleight of hand trick in that it does not define a "representative herd." NPS could claim to be meeting the management plan by allowing 20 or even fewer horses to remain on the banks.

It does indeed appear that the NPS is more concerned with managing the vegetation on the island than the horses.

This is high-handed arrogance. By law, the NPS owns the horses, but again by law, the NPS is mandated to manage the resources, which includes the island, its vegetation and the horses, all for the public good, not for the good of NPS.

Consider that—

Visitors to Carteret County spend an estimated \$150 per day generating over \$200 million annually in the county's economy.

Fifteen county businesses make an annual living taking visitors and residents to Shackleford to view the horses.

Both Gov. Jim Hunt and Betty McCain, secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, feel it is incumbent to maintain "this cultural resource" for the future. They each support Rep. Jones' legislation.

The underhanded recalcitrance on the part of the NPS has caused us to rethink our initial belief that the NPS was acting in good faith.

It now appears that the initial protesters were correct and that the real NPS goal is to remove the mustangs from Shackleford Banks. What other conclusion can be drawn from the NPS' bull-headedness on this issue?

Congressman Jones will present his bill to the House Committee on Resources Wednesday. In an effort to prevent any citizen input in its management of the horses, the NPS is pulling out all the stops.

For a while, it seemed the NPS favored this management plan as well. But suddenly, the NPS objected to Congressman Jones' legislation. Calling Congressman Jones' legislation a "disturbing precedent that will lead to legislation being proposed each time a management decision is questioned,"

If the NPS prevails, it will be a slap in the face to the caring citizens of Carteret County, and possibly a looming death warrant for the wild mustangs who have thrilled generations of countians and tourists who trek to the island to watch these splendid animals in their natural environment.

We strongly urge the NPS to back off and show good faith in this matter. To do less would invite unpleasantness, given the strong community feeling for these animals and their importance to the vanishing heritage of down east Carteret County.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, NATCA, on the occasion of their 10th anniversary. NATCA represents approximately 14,000 air traffic controllers nationwide, including 893 in Florida. NATCA protects air traffic controllers' rights, benefits, and working conditions in nearly 400 facilities in the United States and its territories through strong contract negotiations, labor relations, and litigation.

Since its existence, NATCA has aggressively championed aviation safety with Members of the United States Congress, the White House, the Federal Aviation Administration, the media, and the flying public. I am especially proud to recognize the outstanding performance of the 893 air traffic controllers that work in 25 air traffic facilities throughout Florida.

Aviation safety is paramount for the flying public and this Congress. Air traffic controllers play a critical role in ensuring the safety of all who fly. Therefore, it is my pleasure to honor all of our dedicated air traffic controllers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DEATH OF TWO ORCA WHALES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the capture of orca whales off the coast of Taiji, Japan. I brought this matter to the attention of the House in February, when five orca whales were netted and separated from their whale family, called a pod. Since that date, two of these orca whales have died, both within the past week.

As Members know, the orca whales are small whales, 20, 25 feet long, and we have them around the Puget Sound area and of course in the north Pacific.

The capture of these orcas was allowed under a permit to gather them for research purposes. However, the

whales turned up at a marine amusement park. Clearly, the use of whales for business and entertainment purposes blatantly violates the condition of the permit.

The village near where these whales were captured has a history of annually slaughtering whales. Since the February capture, there have been no sightings of orca whales off the coast of Taiji. It is my understanding that orca pods appear very infrequently in Japanese waters. Therefore, almost nothing is known about those orca populations living off Japan.

I strongly condemn the permanent removal of a family group from an already uncertain ecosystem, where they are definitely not in good supply.

On June 14, the youngest of the captured orcas died, with a female to follow on the morning of June 17. She was pregnant at the time of her capture, and reportedly had a miscarriage in April. She refused to eat during the entire 4 months in captivity, and had become so weak that she could no longer float by herself. At the time of her death, she was held up by a canvas sling in order to breathe.

The Japanese consulate in Seattle yesterday confirmed the death of both orcas. However, the amusement park has neither confirmed nor denied their deaths, nor has the park reported on the three whales still alive. Japanese conservation groups are calling on international animal protection groups to pressure the Japanese Government to return the three remaining Taiji orcas to the wild before they, too, die.

The International Whaling Commission is a world body which governs the harvest of whales worldwide, and has continually asked Japan to end the hunting of whales in the southern Antarctic Whale Sanctuary and other Pacific locations.

While the Japanese whale merchants claim they are conducting research, most of the whales end up on a menu or as an entertainment item. I think this practice is unacceptable. I think that the commercial whaling in the world, we are not ready to go back to real commercial whaling. I think we should do everything we can to urge the Government of Japan to release those whales as soon as possible before they, too, die.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Washington [Mr. DICKS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFETIME LEARNING AFFORDABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. ROTHMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.